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April 22, 2014

Nonimmigrant Visa Unit
United States Embassy
Tirana, Albania
Department of State

RE: B2 Visitor Visa Application filed by Niko Ismailaj (Passport No.: BA1704917; DOB: 08/27/1948)
Appointment: April 28, 2014 at 7:30 A.M.

Dear Consular Officer,

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Ms. Ilda Ismailaj, regarding a B2 visitor visa application filed by her father-in-law, Mr. Niko Ismailaj, whom I am told wishes to travel to the United States to celebrate the baptism of his grandson, Nicholas Ismailaj, on April 27, 2014 at Saint George Orthodox Church in South Glens Falls, New York. (Please see attached Authorization Form and Letter from Church). It is my understanding that the applicant has been scheduled for an appointment at the Embassy on April 28, 2014 at 7:30 A.M. in connection with his visitor visa application.

I understand that consular officials require that applicants for B2 visitor visas provide evidence of strong ties to their home countries to ensure their prompt return to their countries of residence, in compliance with INA Section 214(b). Accordingly, the applicant has gathered documentation that establishes his strong ties to Albania. I respectfully request your review and consideration of these documents.

According to Ilda, Niko is married to Lumturi Ismailaj. I am told that the couple has a daughter and granddaughter in Albania. It is my understanding that neither Niko's wife (who was recently denied a visitor visa) nor the couple's daughter or granddaughter are now seeking visitor visas to accompany the applicant to the United States. In addition to the aforementioned family members, Ilda tells me that Niko also has siblings in Vlore, Albania.

Ilda informs me that Niko and Lumturi own a two-family home in Vlore in which they reside with their daughter and granddaughter. In addition, Ilda tells me that the couple owns a few other properties in Vlore that they rent.

According to Ilda, while Niko receives a pension, he still works for a family business located in Vlore. I am told that Niko is in charge of equipment maintenance and handles retail sales.

Additionaly, Ilda communicated to me that Niko owns land with 480 olive trees in Vlore.

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It is my understanding that the applicant has previously visited siblings in Greece.

Ilda conveyed to me that both Niko and Lumturi are active members of the Saint Kostandine Orthodox Church in Vlore.

Ilda tells me that if approved for a visitor visa, Niko will stay with her and her husband, Artur, at 140 Robert Gardens North in Queensbury, New York. According to Ilda, she and her husband will be responsible for the applicant's accommodations and expenses during his stay in the United States. Ilda is emphatic that it would be unthinkable for Niko to abandon his wife, daughter and granddaughter in order to remain in the United States. Ilda assures me that her father-in-law will return to Albania prior to the end of his authorized period of stay. (Please see attached Letter of Invitation).

Ilda respectfully requests that Niko Ismailaj be granted every consideration under the law when a determination on his application for a visitor visa is made in the hopes that he may be able to celebrate his grandson's baptism with the family. Accordingly, I would appreciate your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable law, rules, and regulations, of Niko Ismailaj's application for a visitor visa as well as written notification of the status of his application following his appointment.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Michael J. Eatroff of my staff at (212) 909-0492, via fax at (866) 824-6340 or at *Michael_Eatroff@gillibrand.senate.gov* should you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely yours,

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator